



TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1 - PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION	1
1. PURPOSE	1
2. NEED	1
3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION	2
4. PROPOSED ACTION	9
5. SCOPING AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT	9
6. DECISION FRAMEWORK	10
7. LEGAL COMPLIANCE	10
CHAPTER 2 - DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVES	14
1. ELEMENTS COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES	14
2. DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVES	24
3. SUMMARY AND COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES	36
CHAPTER 3 - THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT	38
1. HISTORY OF THE REFUGE	38
2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	39
3. DESCRIPTION OF THE BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT	47
4. DESCRIPTION OF THE SOCIOECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT	56
CHAPTER 4 - ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES	58
1. GENERAL IMPACT ANALYSIS	58
2. IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH SERVICE TRUST RESOURCES	74
3. IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH VISITOR SERVICES	80
4. IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH HABITAT MANAGEMENT	83
5. IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE YELLOW RIVER FOCUS AREA	85
6. SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES	91
CHAPTER 5 - LIST OF PREPARERS	93
CHAPTER 6 - CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION WITH THE PUBLIC	94
CHAPTER 7 - RESPONSE TO COMMENTS RECEIVED	99
REFERENCES	106
GLOSSARY	109

**LIST OF TABLES**

TABLE 1	Habitat types on the Refuge by 2015 (Alternative 1)	26
TABLE 2	Habitat types on the Refuge by 2015 (Alternative 2)	29
TABLE 3	Habitat types on the Refuge by 2015 (Alternative 3)	32
TABLE 4	Service Land Acquisition Tools	34
TABLE 5	Summary and Comparison of Alternatives	36
TABLE 6	Summary of Water Sources and Sinks for the Refuge	41
TABLE 7	Current land cover types in the Refuge	44
TABLE 8	Current land cover types in the Refuge Watershed	44
TABLE 9	Current land cover types in the Yellow River Focus Area	46
TABLE 10	Karner Blue Butterfly Population Levels at the Refuge	48
TABLE 11	Rare Plants found on the Refuge and within the Yellow River Focus Area	50
TABLE 12	Region 3 Fish and Wildlife Conservation Priorities and Migratory Non- game Birds of Management Concern that occur on the Refuge and/or the Yellow River Focus Area	51
TABLE 13	Habitat types on the Refuge by 2015 (Alternative 1)	83
TABLE 14	Habitat types on the Refuge by 2015 (Alternative 2)	84
TABLE 15	Habitat types on the Refuge by 2015 (Alternative 3)	85
TABLE 16	Summary of Environmental Impacts	91

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE 1	Regional Orientation of the Refuge	4
FIGURE 2	The Yellow River Focus Area	27
FIGURE 3	Location of Proposed Visitor Center and other Development Projects	33